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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/736,055 | 12/13/2000 | Steven W. Lopez | 00-P-23062A | 6587 |

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JEFFERY S. WHITE
ALLEN,DYER,DOPPELT,MILBRATH & GILCHRIST
255 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE SUITE 1401
P.O.BOX 3791
ORLANDO, FL 32802-3791

EXAMINER

BORISSOV, IGOR N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3639

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/736,055 | Applicant(s) LOPEZ, STEVEN W. | |
| | Examiner Igor Borissov | Art Unit 3639 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Amendment received on 5/09/2005 is acknowledged and entered. New claims 56-61 have been added. Claims 1-61 are currently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen et al. (US 5,422,821).

Allen et al. (Allen) teaches a method and system for forwarding of mailpieces and sender notification, comprising:

Independent Claims

Claims 1, 20, 31, 48, 56 and 57, generating electronic images of receiver location address indicators and sender return address indicators positioned on each of a plurality of mailpieces (C. 6, L. 29-31);

determining a corresponding receiver forwarding address indicator by searching for a match between each receiver location address indicator and a corresponding receiver forwarding address indicator for each mailpiece by making an electronic comparison between the generated electronic image and a preselected set of corresponding forwarding address indicators (C. 6, L. 60 – C. 7, L. 5);

generating a forwarding address indicator on each mailpiece having a match between the receiver location address indicator and the receiver forwarding address indicator (C. 8, L. 54-58);

Art Unit: 3639

searching for the presence of a sender notification indicator positioned on each mailpiece (For an addressor (sender) who requests to be informed of a new or forwarding address for an addressee, according to the information detected by the scanner 140) (C. 15, L. 5-10);

generating and storing a sender notification for each of the plurality of mailpieces having positioned thereon a sender notification indicator, the sender notification including the receiver location address indicator, receiver forwarding address indicator, and sender return address indicator (C. 15, L. 10-19).

Claim 52, electronically scanning a plurality of mailpieces and generating a corresponding single-scan image of receiver location address indicator and sender return address indicators (C. 6, L. 29-31);

searching for a match between each receiver location address indicator and a corresponding receiver forwarding address indicator from among a set of preselected receiver forwarding address indicators (C. 6, L. 60 – C. 7, L. 5);

labeling each mailpiece for which a match is found between the receiver location address indicator and one said preselected receiver forwarding address indicator with a label formed by interposing the receiver forwarding address indicator onto the single-scan image (C. 15, L. 5-10).

Claim 53, scanning each of a plurality of mailpieces having receiver address location indicators and sender return address location indicators positioned thereon to generate a single-scan image of the address indicators data (C. 6, L. 29-31);

separating the receiver location address indicator data (C. 6, L. 60 – C. 7, L. 5);

electronically comparing the address indicator characters with a preselected list to determine a match from a preselected set of return indicators, each return indicator having an indicator of the reason the corresponding mailpiece was not deliverable (C. 6, L. 60 – C. 7, L. 5);

Art Unit: 3639

generating a corresponding label positioned on a mailpiece and comprising the receiver location address indicator, the sender return address indicator, and corresponding indicator of the reason the mailpiece was not deliverable (C. 15, L. 5-10).

Claim 58, using a stored image of a return-to-sender indicator to create a modified return-to-sender indicator (C. 15, L. 5-19).

Claim 61, scanning each of a plurality of mailpieces to locate a return-to-sender indicator positioned thereon and generate comparing the image of the return-to-sender indicator with customer address change data (C. 6, L. 29-31);

creating a modified return-to-sender indicator including the customer address change dates (C. 6, L. 60 – C. 7, L. 5).

Dependent Claims

Claims 2-47, see reasoning applied to Claims 1, 20 and 31.

Claim 49, said method wherein a unique indicator is positioned on a mailpiece not having a match between the receiver location address indicator and the receiver forwarding address indicator (C. 8, L. 54-58);

Claim 50 and 60, said method further comprising the step of off-line processing wherein address indicator data is supplied manually for each mailpiece not having a match between the receiver location address indicator and the receiver forwarding address indicator, and wherein the address indicator is subsequently positioned on the corresponding mailpiece (C. 4, L. 56 – C. 5, L. 4).

Claim 51, 53 and 55, said method, further comprising the step of positioning the generated and stored sender notification on a separate mailpiece for each of the plurality of mailpieces having positioned thereon a sender notification indicator and routing said separate mailpiece to the sender return address indicator (C. 15, L. 5-19).

Claim 59, said method including comparing the modified returnto-sender indicator to the stored image (C. 6, L. 60 – C. 7, L. 5).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-61 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (see form PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Igor Borissov
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3639

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Igor Borissov', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

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7/27/2005